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THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL™

GIANT 48 PAGES

image™



Butt-Ugly Rat
Productions



SONIC SUPER SPECIAL

PARALLEL PARADIGM

WRITTEN &
INKED BY:
KEN PENDERS

ILLUSTRATED BY:
JIM VALENTINO

COLORLED BY:
FRANK
GAGLIARDO &
PAT SPAZIANTE

LETTERED BY:
JEFF POWELL

FRONTISPIECE &
CENTER SPREAD
BY:
PAT SPAZIANTE &
HARVEY
MERCADOOCASIO

COVER
SEPARATION BY:
HEROIC AGE

INTERIOR
SEPARATIONS BY:
GRAPHIC COLOR
WORKS

FRONTIS PIECE
SEPARATIONS BY:
NELSON RIBEIRO

PIN-UP
SEPARATIONS BY:
PAT SPAZIANTE

EDITED BY:
JUSTIN F. GABBIE

MANAGING EDITOR:
VICTOR GORELICK

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
RICHARD GOLDWATER



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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Have you ever thought about how a certain string of events brought you from Point A arrived to Point Z? Each event that occurred affecting the next like falling dominos. It was from such a "domino effect" the crossover between Sonic The Hedgehog and the heroes of Image Comics emerged.

Now, I'm no stranger to inter-company crossovers. As an assistant editor at Marvel Comics, I worked on "Punisher/Batman: Deadly Knights" (co-published by Marvel and DC Comics) and the unlikely crossover of "ARCHIE MEETS THE PUNISHER" (co-published by Archie Comics and Marvel). I knew, based on my experience working on these two crossovers, this project would be lots of fun, but at the same time, a tremendous amount of work for all involved.

Getting back to our domino effect, this issue begins with two brothers, Joel and Aaron Valentino, who are big fans of Sonic & Knuckles comics. As fate would have it, their father is Jim Valentino, creator of *Shadowhawk* and co-founder of Image Comics. Wanting to do something for his kids, Jim contacted Paul Castiglia (promotional director here at Archie Comics) and wondered if he could illustrate a pin-up of Sonic. He had so much fun drawing that pin-up (it printed in SONIC #60), that he was interested in penciling a Sonic story. I asked Sonic & Knuckles regular Ken Penders to collaborate with Jim on a story that could fit within Jim's busy schedule. They came back to me with a synopsis outlining this huge inter-company crossover. I quickly dusted myself off after falling out of my chair and immediately set out to help make this proposal into the reality you now hold in your hands.

Now that we're at Point Z, I'd like to thank Jim, Ken, Spaz and everyone else for all their hard work producing this book. A big "thanks" also goes out to the powers that be at Image Comics for allowing Sonic, Knuckles, and The Freedom Fighters to play in their backyard. Last, but not least, a special thanks should go to Aaron and Joel Valentino. Without their interest in our Blue Blur and Rad Red, there would be no Point A to begin with.

So sit back, relax, read on and enjoy!

Catch you on the flip side!

JUSTIN
FREDDY
GABRIE





particle

MY NAME IS
PARTICLE.

AND YOU
CLAIM THIS
DEVICE--

THE
VIBRATIONAL
TUNER.

--THIS
TUNER TRANS-
PORTED YOU
TO AN ALIEN
WORLD?

FBI HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON, DC
11:27 PM

"THE TUNER DOESN'T
WORK THAT WAY."

"BUT YOU SAID THE
PLACE YOU VISITED
LOOKED FHTHRISTIC?"

"COULD YOU HAVE
MOVED FORWARD
IN TIME?"

"POSSIBLY--

"--BUT I
CAN'T SEE
HOW."

**RRRR
BOOM**

"THE TUNER WAS DESIGNED
TO PROVE THE THEORY OF
ALTERNATE REALITIES--"

-- WORLDS THAT EXIST WITHIN
THE SAME SPACE/ TIME BUT ON
DIFFERENT DIMENSIONAL
PLANES--

-- SEPARATED ONLY BY
THE FREQUENCY AT
WHICH THEY VIBRATE.

"I HAD BEEN PREPARED TO
ENCOUNTER A WORLD MUCH
LIKE OURS WITH SOME
VARIATIONS--

--BUT NOTHING COULD
HAVE PREPARED ME FOR
WHAT I ACTUALLY
ENCOUNTERED!"

SONIC
THE
HEDGEHOG
OVER THERE!

LOOKS LIKE
SOMEONE'S OFF
THE BEATEN
PATH, TAILS--

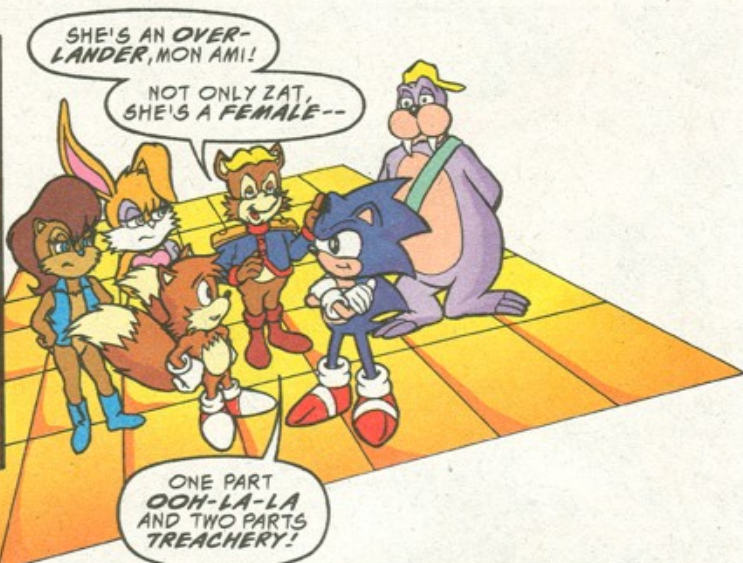
--AND IT'S AN
OVERLANDER, NO
LESS!

WHERE
ON EARTH
AM I?

WHATEVER
THIS PLACE IS,
IT'S SURE NOT
KANSAS!

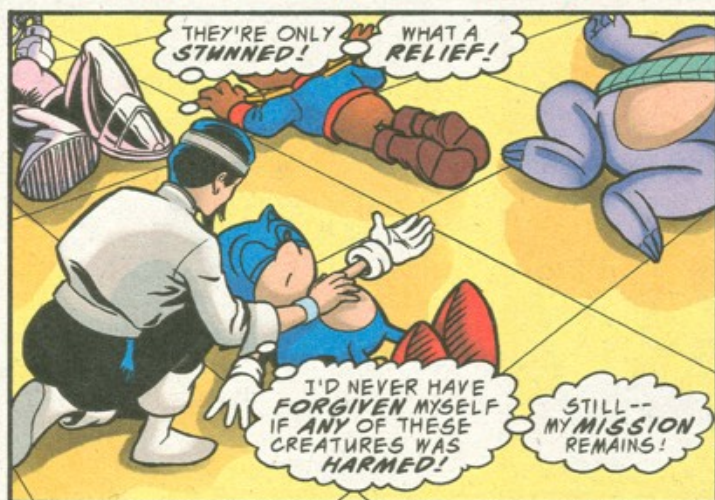
NOT ONLY
THAT--





*An UNTOLD story you'll have to remind us to tell you sometime.--Justin







WHOA!



GET ON TO HERE!



KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA

DON'T TELL ME! LET ME GUESS!

YOU MUST BE--



GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, DEFENDER OF THE CHAOS EMERALD--

--AND THE ONE WHO'S GONNA KICK SERIOUS BUTT IF YOU TRY ANYTHING STUPID!



CHAOS EMERALD?

BUT, OF COURSE! YOU MUST BE **DEPENDENT** UPON IT AS A **POWER SOURCE**, TOO!



WHAT'S IT TO YOU?

NOW BACK AWAY FROM THERE **BEFORE** I GET REALLY MAD!



WHERE I COME FROM, WE EXTEND OUR OPEN HANDS--

--AS A **SIGN** TO SHOW WE MEAN NO HARM!



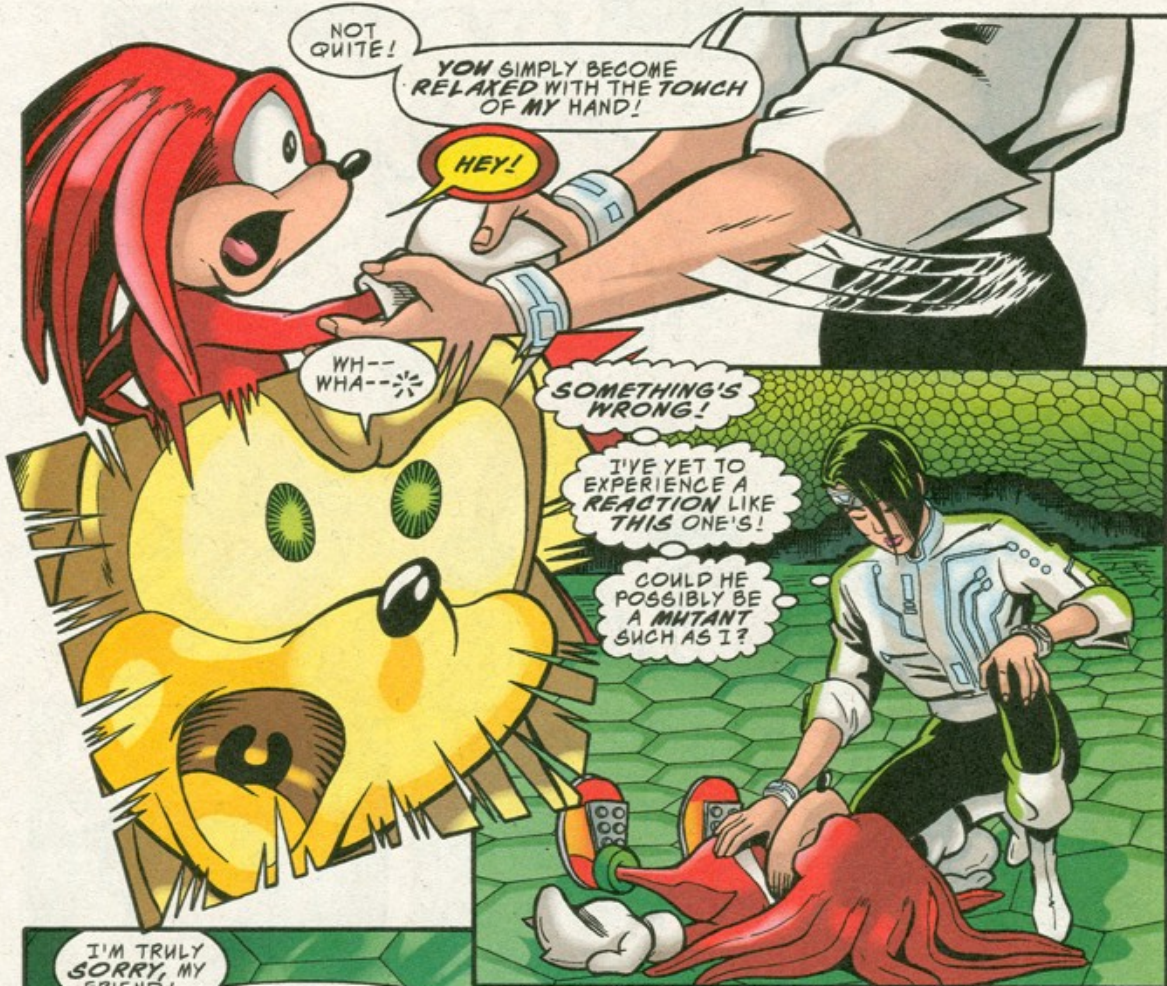
I'M GAME!

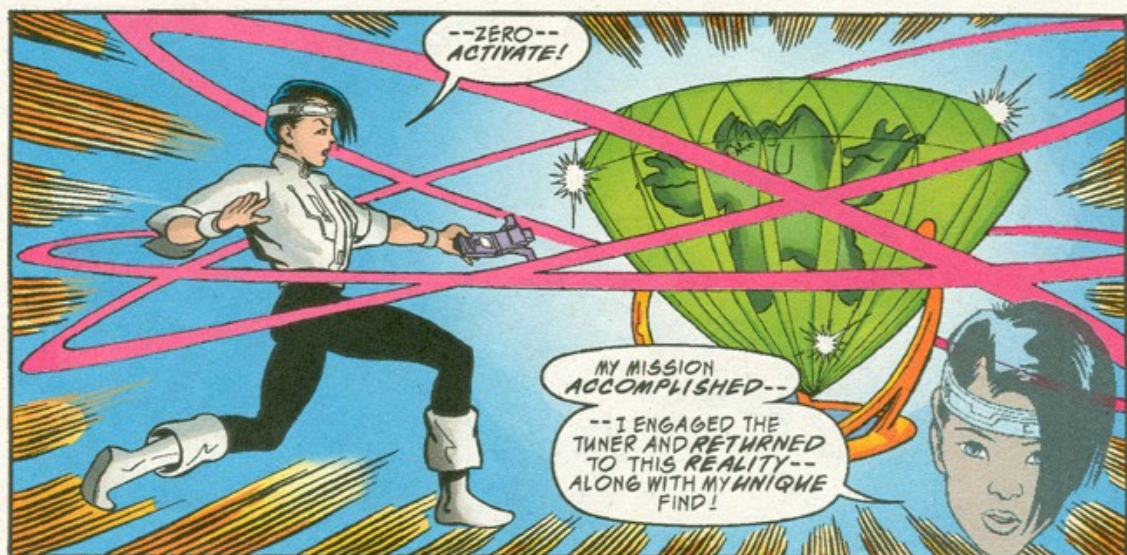
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT--



YOU **SURRENDER** AFTER WE SHAKE HANDS?











"--AND USE ME FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES!"

THE POWER'S OUT!

WHY IN BLAZES HASN'T THE BACK-UP GENERATORS KICKED ON?!

"SCOLDER! MULLY! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU GUYS? WHERE'S YOUR SUSPECT?!"

I HATE TO SOUND LIKE SOME WHITE HOUSE FLUNKY--

--BUT I HAVEN'T ANY RECOLLECTION!

SHE BLEW YOUR FUSE, SCOLDER--

--JUST AS SHE PROBABLY DID TO THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM IN THE BUILDING!



YOU'RE BEGINNING TO SOUND LIKE ME, MULLY! THAT'S PRETTY--

--SPOOKY?

SO WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

THAT WOMAN WAS OUR ONLY LEAD!

NOT QUITE!

I EITHER GIVE YOU THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT ONCE IN A WHILE--

--OR ELSE I THINK YOU'RE NUTS!

SHE MAY HAVE BEEN THE ONLY LIVING BEING WE FOUND AMONG THE RUINS AT THAT AIR BASE--











"---THIS REAL TALL DUDE JUST STOOD THERE LOOKING DARK AND MYSTERIOUS WITH A CAPE THAT MOVED ALL AROUND AS IF IT WERE ALIVE, AND HE WAS SURROUNDED BY KIDS DRESSED UP LIKE VIDEO GAME CHARACTERS! THEN I REMEMBERED---

"OH, YEAH!"

"FORGOT IT'S HALLOWEEN!"

"AT LEAST SOMEONE AROUND HERE KNOWS HOW TO HAVE FUN!"

SAY THERE, TALL-DARK-AND-GRUESOME---



DO YOU HAVE THE SLIGHTEST CLUE WHERE WE ARE?

WE DON'T NEED A ROAD MAP JUST A SIGNPOST!

NO.



OF ALL THE--!

THE NATIVES SURE ARE FRIENDLY AROUND HERE!

NOW WHAT?





YOU
GHS REALLY
ARE--?



HOW--?

NOT "HOW!" WHY
IS THE QUESTION I WANT
ANSWERS TO!

I WAS IN A
HIDDEN GROTTO
ON THE FLOATING
ISLAND--



--LEFT
UNCONSCIOUS
UNTIL I FELT
THE COLD
RUSH OF WATER
POURING
IN!



"CONSIDERING THE ISLAND HOVERS
AMONG THE CLOUDS, I DIDN'T NEED TO
BE A HIGH COUNCIL MEMBER TO KNOW
SOMETHING WAS MAJOR LEAGUE WRONG!"



"ONCE OUTSIDE, I COULD SEE THE
FULL SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM--

--THAT IT WAS WAY BEYOND
ANYTHING I COULD HANDLE
ON MY OWN!"



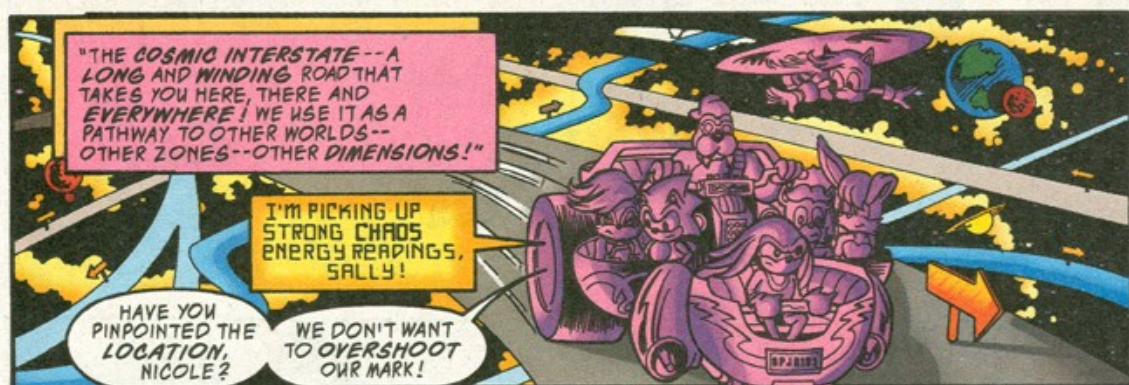
WITH EVERYONE ON THE ISLAND
TRYING TO COPE WITH THE DISASTER--

--THAT
DIDN'T LEAVE
ME WITH MANY
OPTIONS!

OH?











COOL
YOUR JETS,
ANTOINE!

LET'S NOT
BROADCAST
THAT, ALL RIGHT!

ONLY
MY DAD
KNOWS!

IT'S THE
KID!



RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE
TO FIGURE OUT HOW THE
BUNCH OF US ARE GOING
TO TRACK DOWN YOUR
EMERALD!

ANY
IDEAS?



"THE ANSWER WAS JUST AROUND
THE CORNER, WHERE THEIR
VEHICLE WAS PARKED. IT WAS THE
FUNKIEST THING I EVER LAID
EYES ON!"

WOO
HOO!

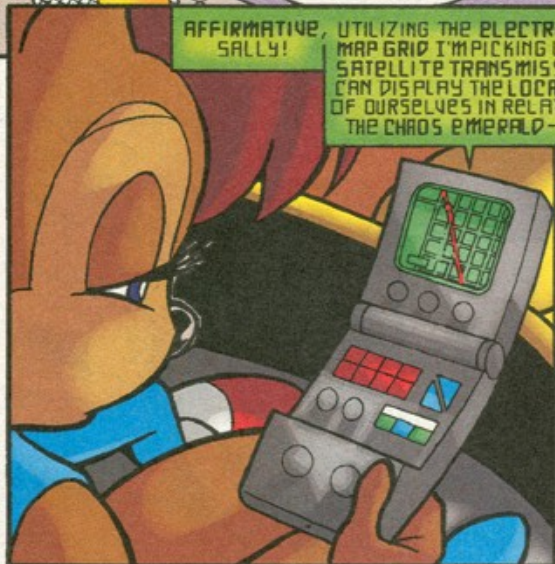
MOVE
OVER, ROBBIE
KNEIVAL!

PICKING UP THE
CHAOS EMERALD
YET, NICOLE?

AFFIRMATIVE,
SALLY!
UTILIZING THE ELECTRONIC
MAP GRID I'M PICKING UP VIA
SATELLITE TRANSMISSION, I
CAN DISPLAY THE LOCATIONS
OF OURSELVES IN RELATION
TO THE CHAOS EMERALD--

--AND CONTINUOUSLY
TRANSMIT THE DATA TO
THE ONBOARD NAVIGA-
TIONAL COMPUTER!

TRANSLATION?







"--AND IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, WHO ELSE WILL?"

THAT BUNCH LOOKED MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR THE TYPICAL COP TO HANDLE!



I THINK WE'RE BEING FOLLOWED--

--BY THE DRAGON!



HAVE YOU GONE LOONEY THINGS?! DWLCY ISN'T EVEN WITH US!!

DWLCY?! WHO'S THAT?!

SHE'S A DRAGON WE KNOW!



I WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT HER!

I WAS TALKING ABOUT THAT GUY--



THEN AGAIN, NO ONE EVER SAID I WAS TYPICAL!

BLAST! THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!

OH, GREAT--!

WHATEVAH COULD BE WRONG, SUGAH?

THE SAVAGE DRAGON



AND HE'S FIRING AT US!

HOOD BOY!

STOP!

IN THE NAME OF THE LAW!!

HE SURE
PLAYS FOR
KEEPS, DOESN'T
HE?

IT'S SO HARD TO TELL
THE GOOD GUYS FROM THE
BAD THESE DAYS!

GUESS I
HAVE TO REMIND
HIM WHO'S
WHO!

WHAT DO YOU THINK
YOU'RE DOING? IT'S THE
END OF THE LINE ANY-
WAY!

YOU GUYS CAN'T
BOARD THE TRAIN IF MY
FRIEND IS FIRING AT
US!

YOU
KNOW THIS
NUTBALL?!

YEAH! WE'VE
MET!

"Check out ALTERED
IMAGES #1-3 - Justin

"--ALL ABOARD!"

WHY DO I
FEEL IT TAKES
ONE TO KNOW
ONE!

YOU HEARD
NICOLE,
EVERYONE--

MAY I REMIND YOU THE CHAOS
EMERALD IS LEAVING ON THAT
DEPARTING TRAIN?

HAVE YOU
LOST IT,
DRAGON?!

WOULDN'T
YOU SHOOT
FIRST AND
ASK QUESTIONS
LATER--

YOU COULD'VE
KILLED US!!!

--IF YOU SAW A
BUNCH OF HOOLIGANS
TEAR--THROUGH--

GET BACK!
THAT CYCLE'S
ALIVE!!

WHOA!

THAT THING'S
GOT MORE GIMMICKS
THAN JAMES BOND!

WHRRR KLIK-KLIK-KLIK

ALLOW ME TO BE
OF ASSISTANCE!





IT TOOK YOU A BIT LONGER THAN I EXPECTED, BUT I KNEW YOU'D COME AFTER THIS LITTLE BAUBLE REGARDLESS!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU KNEW? AM I MISSING SOMETHING HERE?

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE IN THE DARK, LADY!

HOW WOULD SOMEONE LIKE YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE MASTER CHAOS EMERALD?



THAT WOULD BE TELLING! SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT I KNOW YOU ALL QUITE WELL!

REALLY? I DON'T EVER RECALL EVER STUMBLING OVER YOU EITHER, BUB!



YOU GET TO KNOW ME VERY WELL, ECHIDNA-- BUT THAT'S IN THE FUTURE!

AS FOR YOU HEDGEHOG-- YOU MERELY LUCKED OUT IN OUR PAST ENCOUNTER!



THIS TIME, HOWEVER, I'M MORE IN CONTROL THAN ANYONE DARES IMAGINE!

WHEN YOU LEARN--

SKRAAP

AH! THERE THEY ARE! INTERESTING SET-UP, TO SAY THE LEAST!



WHO APPOINTED YOU SET DESIGNER?

BRING HIM DOWN, MY MAN-DROIDS!





SWATBOT-ONE-TO-SQUADRON--

I'VE LOCKED-ONTO-THE-MASTER'S-SIGNAL!



SENSORS-INDICATE-THE-MASTER-IS-BELOW-US--

--ALONG-WITH-VARIOUS-ALIEN-LIFEFORMS!



RIGHT ON SCHEDULE! ISAAC! GET YOUR TEAM IN HERE IMMEDIATELY--

--FOR THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE!

AS-YOU-COMMAND-MASTER!

PHASE ONE IS NOW COMPLETE!

I HAVE GATHERED TOGETHER THE UNWITTING COMPONENTS FOR THE MOST INSIDIOUS PLOT EVER DEVISED--

--AND WITH THE INCALCULABLE ENERGY OF THIS AMAZING GEMSTONE HARNESSSED UNDER MY CONTROL--

--THERE'LL SOON BE A CRISIS ON INFINITE REALITIES RESULTING IN ONLY ONE--

--MINE! HA HA HA HA HA

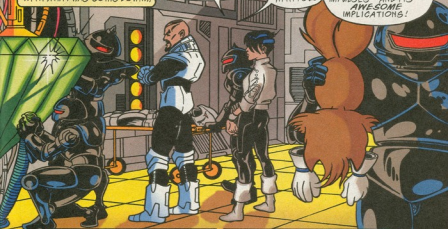


"AS OUT OF IT AS I WAS, I COULD SENSE THINGS WERE PROGRESSING ALL AROUND ME, AND I'M SURE I WASN'T THE ONLY ONE UNHAPPY WITH WHAT WAS GOING DOWN...

I DID MY PART, DOCTOR--NOW I EXPECT YOU TO LIVE UP TO YOUR PART OF THE BARGAIN!

MY DEAR PARTICLE, I'M FAR FROM BEING FINISHED WITH YOU!

CONSIDER THE POWER YOU POSSESS -- THE ABILITY TO CONTROL AND MANIPULATE ELECTRICAL IMPULSES--AND ITS AWESOME IMPLICATIONS!



INTERFACING WITH NEURONS IN THE HUMAN NERVOUS SYSTEM OR IMPULSES ALONG A CIRCUIT BOARD ARE SMALL POTATOES COMPARED TO WHAT I HAVE IN MIND FOR YOU!

I'LL FORGIVE YOUR OUT-BURST THIS TIME--

--BUT I RECOMMEND AN ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT ON YOUR PART AND GET WITH THE PROGRAM!

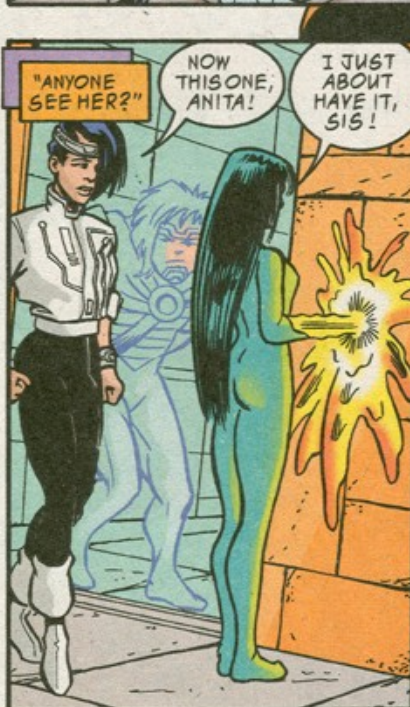
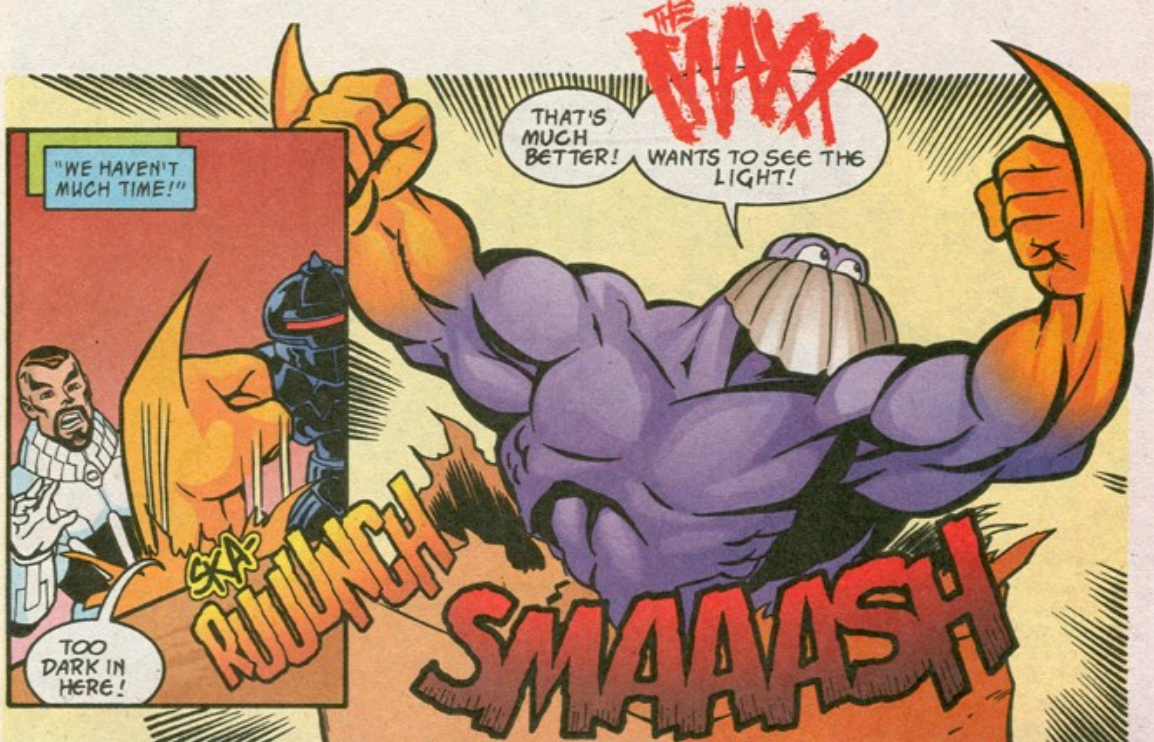
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME--

--I SEE OTHERS HAVE NEED OF MY WISDOM AND GUIDANCE!

WHAT SEEM TO BE THE PROBLEM, YOUR ARMOR-PLATED DOLTS?









--BUT I'M
JUST GETTING
WARMED
UP!

WELL,
I'LL BE---

JUST WHEN
YOU THOUGHT YOU
SAW IT ALL, eh?



NOT TO MENTION
THE NUTCASE THAT
STOLE IT FROM
US!

I'LL
TAKE THIS
WAY--



--AND
I'LL GO
THAT
WAY!

WHAT ARE
YOU BABBLING
ABOUT?

WE NEED THAT
HUNK OF ROCK IN
ONE PIECE!

--WITH
NEITHER
ONE OF YOU
HAVING A
CHANCE TO
DERRAIL MY
PLANS IN ANY
EVENT!

OBSERVE!



"I'VE STUDIED THE CHAOS
FORCES FOR COUNTLESS
YEARS ACROSS UNTOLD
PERMUTATIONS OF REALITIES--

--AND NOW, AS
A RESULT OF ALL
MY EFFORTS--

--I'M GOING TO
RECREATE REALITY
--MY WAY!"

THIS IS
WHACKO! THERE'S
ONLY ONE NUT-
JOB I KNOW OF CAP-
ABLE OF THIS --

--AND HE
BIT THE BIG
ONE!

JUST
WHO ARE
YOU?!

AS MUCH AS IT
KILLS ME NOT TO
GLOAT, HEDGEHOG,
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T
TELL YOU UNTIL THE
FINAL ENDGAME!

AT THE
MOMENT--

--I'M STILL TRYING TO FIGURE
OUT IF I PREFER THE THIRTY-
THIRD CENTURY POST-
APOCALYPTIC STYLE OF
ARCHITECTURE--

--OVER TWENTIETH
CENTURY ART DECO!

"I CAN
NEVER
DECIDE!"

MAYBE I
COULD
MAKE THE
CHOICE
FOR YOU,
MAC!

HOW ABOUT
NEITHER?

YOU!

WHETHER OR
NOT YOU KNOW
ME DOESN'T
MATTER!

WHAT
DOES--

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU
CYBERNETIC CLODS DO--
GRIND HIS BONES TO PASTE--
USE HIM FOR TOMORROW'S STEW--

-- JUST GET
RID OF THE
ECHIDNA!

--IS THAT
I'VE A JOB
TO DO!

SMASH ANY
SWATBOT BEFORE
THEY CAN EVEN
GET NEAR
KNUCKLES!

EVERYONE!!
ATTACK!!



MANOHMAN
...NOT SURE--I
CAN DO THIS!

LOOK
INSIDE YOUR-
SELF,
KNUCKLES!

THIS IS
WHAT YOU WERE
BORN FOR!

FATHER...?

DON'T LISTEN
TO HIM, KNUCKLES!
YOUR DESTINY IS
TO RULE A
UNIVERSE!

I GAVE YOU
ABILITIES FAR
BEYOND ANY
ECHIDNA, MY
SON--

SETTING OUR SIGHTS
A TAD HIGH, AREN'T WE,
GREAT UNCLE DIMITRI?

ONLY YOU CAN
MAKE THE CHOICE WHETHER
TO PROPERLY USE OR
SQUANDER THE GIFT I
PROVIDED!

EVEN IF I DON'T
UNDERSTAND--

--WHAT CHOICE
DO I HAVE BUT TO
LISTEN TO MY
FATHER?

SO MUCH
POWER--

SO MUCH
ENERGY--

ALL I
WANT--

--IS MY
WORLD--

--RESTORED
TO
ME!







--IT WAS **MASS HALLUCINATION** BROUGHT ON BY **MICROWAVES** DURING THE **TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN!**

COME ON, LANA! OUR **FIRST ENCOUNTER** WITH THE **CONCEPT OF MULTIPLE REALITIES** AND THAT'S THE **BEST** YOU CAN COME UP WITH?

HAVE YOU **EVER** CONSIDERED AFTER ALL OUR **CASES TOGETHER** WHY **PHYSICAL EVIDENCE** IS SO **IMPORTANT** TO ME, SCOLDER?

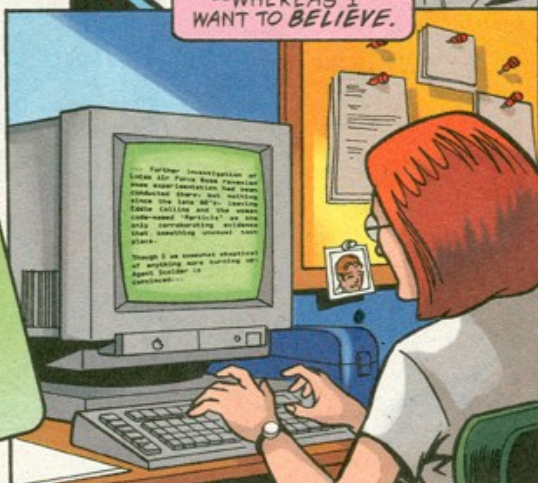
YOU **ALREADY** HAVE **FAITH** IN YOUR **CONVICTIONS**--



"--WHEREAS I WANT TO BELIEVE."

... further investigation of Lucas Air Force Base revealed some experimentation had been conducted there, but nothing since the late 80's, leaving Eddie Collins and the woman code-named 'Particle' as the only corroborating evidence that something unusual took place.

Though I am somewhat skeptical of anything more turning up, Agent Scolder is convinced...



"... the truth is out there!"



Dedicated
to Chris
("I made
this!")
Carter